

Different Pigs

Another animal important to Missouri agriculture is the pig. Early Missouri farmers usually raised pigs. By 1890, two million hogs were processed in Kansas City's processing plants every year. This was over four times as many hogs as cattle.

During the late 1800's and early 1900's, pork producers raised very fat hogs to meet the consumer demand for lard, which at the time was used a great deal for cooking. After the end of World War II, the demand for lard gradually decreased as other sources of cooking oil were developed and consumers became more health-conscious.

To produce a leaner, more muscular hog, farmers selected the best breeding stock each year. By breeding the best boars to the best sows, the hog's body type and appearance changed year by year. Today, farmers have succeeded in producing pigs that meet the needs of consumers. American consumers want larger pork chops, leaner bacon, and less fat.

Pork Chops. Bacon. Sausage. Footballs. These are all products that we think of when we think about pigs. Pigs are important to us for many reasons. However, there are some new reasons that pigs are important in our lives.



Agricultural scientists develop new products that help us. For example, scientists have developed special pigs that produce medicines. There are some people whose blood does not clot properly. Scientists introduced a gene into some pigs that cause them to produce the needed blood clotting

protein in their milk. The scientists milk these special sows every day and use the proteins to help the people whose blood will not clot. Who knows how pigs will help us in the future!

Here are two pictures of pigs. One was taken about 100 years ago and the other shows a pig today. They look quite different. In some ways, the pictures are almost opposites. **Opposite** means that two things are as different as can be. In the pig pictures, we see that one pig looks short while one looks long. There are many ways that the modern pig is nearly opposite the old fashioned pig. Look at the pictures. On the lines below the pictures, **list words** that are opposites that could be used to describe each pig.





Missouri Hogs

Missouri is one of the leading hog producing states. Here is a table from the 1999 Missouri Farm Facts that provides information about our hog industry.

**Hogs and Pigs:
Production and Income, Missouri, 1994-98**

Year	Production	Marketings	Price per 100 lbs.	Value of Production	Cash Receipts	Value of Home Consumption	Gross Income
	<i>-thousand pounds-</i>		<i>-dollars-</i>		<i>-thousand dollars-</i>		
1994	1,286,324	1,255,316	38.60	505,008	500,779	1,158	501,937
1995	1,441,580	1,468,783	39.10	571,936	589,417	1,255	590,672
1996	1,332,616	1,396,574	50.40	665,669	695,971	1,612	697,583
1997	1,411,364	1,474,928	50.90	712,923	741,118	1,601	742,719
1998	1,404,648	1,526,190	32.00	447,757	491,470	1,046	492,516

1. Graph the price per 100 pounds for hogs between 1994 and 1998:
2. Why do you think hog prices change from one year to another?
3. Find the price per 100 pounds of hogs in 1998. Use this figure to find out how much one pound costs.
4. Look in a grocery store or grocery store advertisement and see how much a pound of pork chops and how much a pound of bacon costs. On another sheet of paper, create a bar graph that compares the price of each to the latest price per pound of live hogs.



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